



#4/a 3629  
Lownan  
12-18-02

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of: Brad D. Guthrie

Examiner:

Bryon P. Gehman

Serial Number: 09/544,321

Group Art Unit:

3629

Filed: 04/06/2000

For: METHOD FOR QUALIFYING DIE MATERIAL AND TESTING DIES

Assistant Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks  
Washington, D.C. 20231

RECEIVED  
DEC 16 2002  
GROUP 3600

**AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION**

The Applicant's undersigned Attorney thanks the Examiner for a kind and thorough review of the Application. Applicant's undersigned Attorney responds to the Office Action mailed on 9/10/02 (hereinafter referred to as the "Office Action") in the following manner:

**In The Abstract of the Disclosure:**

Please amend the Abstract of the Disclosure as follows.

**Abstract (amended "clean-version")**

A1  
A method (10) for acquiring material for use within a die and for determining whether a die has certain characteristics which would allow the die to have a relatively long operating